

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 INT-05 FTC-01 GSA-01 H-02 /093 W

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P R 131300Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1617

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0321

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND EMIN GV US LI

SUBJECT: KAISER-MIFERGUI-LAMCO

1. DELEGATION FROM KAISER INDUSTRIES (WILLIAM FISHER, HARRY GERBER, AND ROBERT ROBILLARD) HAVE BEEN VISITING CONAKRY FOR PAST WEEK. THIS WILL PROBABLY BE LAST KAISER VISIT TO GUINEA PRIOR TO CRUCIAL KAISER BOARD MEETING FEB 26, WHICH WILL DECIDE ON KAISER PARTICIPATION IN MIFERGUI.

2. KAISER GROUP DEPARTED MORNING FEB 13 FOR MINE SITE AT NIMBA. AFTER SPENDING NIGHT THERE, THEY WILL PROCEED TO BUCHANAN VIA LAMCO RAILROAD, THENCE TO MONROVIA ACCOMPANIED BY MIFERGUI REPRESENTATIVES, LAMCO REPRESENTATIVES AND PROBABLY ALSO REPRESENTATIVES OF ALGERIAN MIFERGUI PARTNERS. FROM MONROVIA THEY RETURN TO OAKLAND FEB 17.

3. FINAL FACT FINDING VISIT WAS CONCERNED PRINCIPALLY WITH TWO ASPECTS: A) NATURE - AND WEAKNESS - OF OTHER MIFERGUI
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PARTNERS AND B) MIFERGUI-LAMCO RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY UN-

RESOLVED QUESTION OF FREIGHT RATE FOR ORE TO BE LEVIED BY LAMCO.

4. AT PRESENT LAMCO IS HOLDING OUT FOR COMMERCIAL RATE (REPORTEDLY ABOUT \$6 PER TON). KAISER GROUP BELIEVES THAT MIFERGUI ORE WOULD BE NON-COMPETITIVE IF THIS AMOUNT PAID. KAISER WILL BE OFFERING UNOFFICIAL "GOOD OFFICES" TO ATTEMPT PERSUADE LAMCO THAT IN RETURN FOR SUBSTANTIAL MIFERGUI (GUINEA) INVESTMENT (ABOUT \$150 MILLION) IN LAMCO RAILROAD AND PORT FACILITIES, LAMCO SHOULD LOGICALLY CHARGE RATE BASED ON COST PLUS REASONABLE MANAGEMENT FEE.(FYI ONLY - KAISER SUSPECTS THE LAMCO HAS NOT BEEN FULLY FORTHCOMING WITH LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT ON ITS PRESENT COSTS OF OPERATION. END FYI).

5. KAISER GROUP HAD DISCUSSION HERE WITH LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR T. SIAFA SHERMAN, SOON TO ASSUME OFFICE AS DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER.

6. EMBASSY, AS IN PAST HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE HELP TO KAISER, INCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE SIMILAR COOPERATION IF REQUESTED FROM EMBASSY MONROVIA. WE ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT KAISER WILL NOT HAVE SAME NEED FOR HELP THAT THEY HAVE IN CONAKRY.
HARROP

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